

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-04

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TAGS TBIO CO

SUBJ: ICMR PROJECT IN CALI

DEPT PASS NIH

REF CALI 13 OF JUNE 12/75 (NOTAL; TELECON KERR/TOYRYLA JUNE
16/75

1. THE CONSUL IN CALI HAS REPORTED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE UNIV DEL VALLE VOTED ON JUNE 13 NOT TO RENEW ITS CONTRACT
WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR).
MARXIST OFFICIALS WHO DOMINATE THE UNIV ADMIN HAVE BEEN OPPOSED
TO THE PROJECT BECAUSE IT IS FINANCED BY THE USG THROUGH THE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH WITH TULANE UNIV ACTING AS THE FUNNEL.
IN THEIR VIEW, USG FUNDS INHIBITS THE UNIV DEL VALLE'S FREEDOM
OF ACTION AND ITS AUTONOMY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIV DEL
VALLE AND ICMR THE FAILURE TO RENEW THE CONTRACT REQUIRES THE
AUTOMATIC CESSATION OF ICMR OPS WITHIN 60 DAYS AND
REQUIRES THAT ALL ICMR EQUIPMENT IN PLACE BE TURNED OVER TO THE
UNIV DEL VALLE.

2. ICMR'S CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COLOMBIAN GOVT,
WHICH ALLOWS ICMR TO OPERATE WITHIN THE COUNTRY, EXTENDS UNTIL
77. DR D'ALESSANDRO ICMR'S DIRECTOR, IS REPORTED TO BE GIVING
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO WORKING THROUGH ANOTHER COLOMBIAN ENTITY
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IN THE WAKE OF THE UNIV DEL VALLE'S DECISION. HE ADMITS THAT NEW

EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPORTED IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT BUT CLAIMS THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED ON A CONSIDERABLY REDUCED SCALE.

4. THE CONSUL IN CALI, WHICH IS CLOSE TO THE PROBLEM, REPORTS THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW OPS WOULD REQUIRE ALMOST TOTAL RESUPPLY OF THE ICMR IN SPITE OF DR D'ALESSANDRO'S CLAIM TO THE CONTRARY. THIS WOULD BE AN EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION WITH NO GUARANTEE THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION WOULD NOT BE REPEATED IN 77 WHEN THE CONTRACT WITH THE GOC RUNS OUT. AFTER REJECTION BY THE UNIV DEL VALLE, ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE AND WORK WITH ANOTHER ENTITY WOULD BE HUMILIATING, AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT AT "HANGING ON" WHICH WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO ICMR, TULANE AND THE USG. SUCH A TARNISHING OF THE ICMR'S PRESTIGE WOULD ONLY HINDER ANY NEW OP. FURTHERMORE IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT AFTER MEDIA REPORTS HIGHLIGHTING USG FINANCING OF ICMR AND THE RECENT BOARD DECISION NOT TO RENEW THE CONTRACT, ICMR'S CONTINUED PRESENCE WOULD CREATE A TEMPTING TARGET FOR ATTACKS BY ANTI US ELEMENTS.

5. THE CON RECOMMENDS AND THE EMB CONCURS THAT THE DEPT SHOULD REQUEST NIH TO REVIEW THE ICMR PROJECT IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING AND CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE ANY PROPOSAL THAT ICMR ENTER INTO A NEW CONTRACT WITH A DIFFERENT GOC ORG. WHITE

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